

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2020***

***Select Board Present: Chris Hutchins, Michael Sununu & Jamie Thompson
Others Include: Billie Bell, Ray Buxton, George Drinkwater & Cathy Nelson***

Call to order at 7:00 pm.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

School Tax Paid	09/10/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$414,972.00
Checks Dated	08/28/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 22,221.61
	08/31/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 12,046.76
	09/02/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 1,673.66
	09/04/20:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 15,503.75
	09/04/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 16,919.29
	09/11/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 11,596.48

Ray Buxton attended to discuss the Water/Sewer department lease. Ray feels \$800.00 for rent is too high for the Main Street building. The Water department allows the Town to utilize the easement of roughly 56,000 square feet of their property for the salt shed. Ray would like the Town to consider this in lieu of the full lease price.

Michael discussed how the Town purchased the old Post Office 15-17 years ago with the intent of it housing the Police Department. The Town has been maintaining the building for years without compensation for the taxpayers. His initial inclination is to sell the property if the Town does not have a use for it. In terms, of the Water District, it makes a lot of sense to Michael to allow the Water District to have a space there. He feels the Board should be good stewards of the Taxpayer's money while at the same time recognizing the value of the Water District. George asked about purchasing the building after the year lease. Michael replied that it would have to be put before the Town. At such time, there may be others interested in the building, and therefore, cannot guarantee the Water District would be able to purchase it.

The Water District countered with a rent of \$200.00 with the continued utilization of their property for the water shed. Jamie was not opposed to giving it to the Water District for below market value since it is for Town use. It would also give the Board time to evaluate whether to sell the property in the future. Chris concurred that he would prefer to stay away from the \$0.00 lease but does feel there is a town use for the property and an immediate need for the Water District. Michael advised the Water District the sale of the property will most likely come up in March and they should be aware that the Water District may be negotiating with a third party at the end of their lease if the Water District is not able to purchase the property. The Board agreed, since it is a draft lease, to have legal look at it with the new \$200.00 amount and with the intent to make a formal vote in a few weeks.

Billie Bell brought up her concerns with the new water line for the proposed Irving Gas Station. The State sent her its new proposed water line which impacts her property. According to Billie, the developer, Scott Mitchell, is outraged with the new path of the proposed water line. He encouraged Billie & others to inform the State of what is best for those concerned. The developer and Billie would like the Board to write a letter to the State expressing concerns that might help resolve this issue. Billie showed the Board images of the impact the new proposal will have on her property. Billie's issue is, not that the State doesn't have the right, but is this the way the State wants to treat the homeowner. The right of way is 10ft to her fence from the curb. The State's proposal is 20ft. This path will effect trees that she planted on her property 18 years ago. The trees provide a noise barrier from the cars traveling on Rt. 85 in front of her house. The 20ft path will compromise her trees. She believes the amount of feet the State wants to take is excessive. She feels the solution should be one that is less evasive to her house. She reference a letter from the State, a Mr. Miller, who stated that it's 'just one person'. She asked the Board to imagine if this was occurring on the opposite side of the street and how many houses would be affected by this 20ft proposal.

Michael asked what the rationale is by the State to move it from the 10ft right of way to 20 feet. She advised the Board that it would eliminate rebuilding the curb or damaging the road. Jamie informed Michael that the original path was designated to go down the middle of the road which was paved three years prior. Billie added that when it was finally voted on by the Town, the path was then to go more to the side of the road - the 10ft right of way. Michael asked how wide the path will need to be to put the water line in. Ray advised him that it was around 4ft of trenching and then a couple of feet on either side to work. Michael stated that he would be willing to write a letter to the State but would like to research it further. In his opinion, what the State is doing is egregious. Jamie added, that the path will kill other trees along the road, not just on her property. Michael questioned why the State cares about the curbing if the developer is the one paying for the expense. Jamie replied that the State is concerned with anything interfering with the integrity of the road. Michael asked what the timeline is for a decision and asked Billie to email the information to him. She replied that the State has already completed the walkthrough. He also confirmed with Ray that it is DOT Department 6 that is handling this issue.

Michael motioned, seconded by Chris, to approve the intent to cut for Map 205/2 and 210/11 & 13. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Michael formally recognized Vernon Glass as the next recipient of the Boston Post Cane. Chris seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Board reviewed the Representation Letter from Melanson in regards to the Town Audit. It also formally agrees to the formulas for liabilities of the retirement system as well. Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to sign the letter and return it to Melanson. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board discussed correspondence from a resident on Deertrees with concerns of road washout by his property. The Board made a request to have the Road Agent look at it and report back to the Board.

The Board discussed signage to acknowledge our Purple Heart Community. It is a cost of \$555 for five signs. This cost may be covered by a veteran group if one is located. Chris offered to make some calls to some veteran groups.

Chris asked if the Town received feedback from the Newfields School regarding hosting the General Election. Jamie advised the Board that they did get approval from the School Board. The General Election will be take place at the Newfields Elementary School located at 9 Piscassic Road on November 3, 2020 from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

Chris confirmed with the other Board members that they had received the email correspondence from Steve Shope notifying them that Mr. Conner changed his mind and the property is no longer for sale. Michael also mentioned Steve's resignation from the Conservation Commission and acknowledged Steve's exceptional work for the Town over the years. The other members concurred with Michael.

Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to approve the 8/18 Select Board Meeting Minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chris mentioned the webinar, hosted by NHMA, taking place on September 30th in conjunction with Department of Human Services regarding Halloween.

Michael gave a sample notification card to the Board members from the Waste Management representative, Peter LaChappelle, which will notify Newfields residents that trash collection will move from Thursday s to Fridays starting November 6th. Chris will ask Sue to send out a town email and post on the website, as well.

The Board requested to have Josh from CCAC come in to discuss their status on the recycling to ensure the Board has time to look at options etc. prior to the Budget process.

At 7:59 pm, Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien